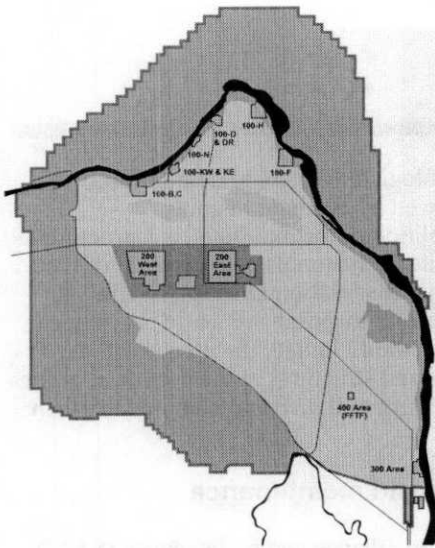


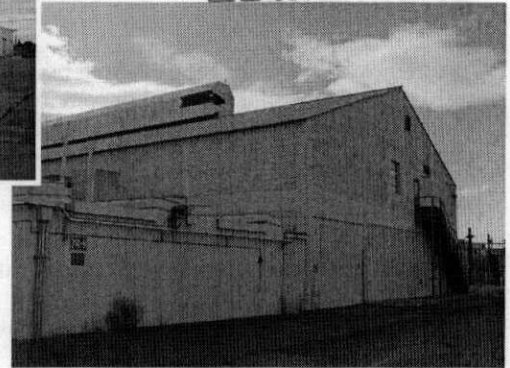
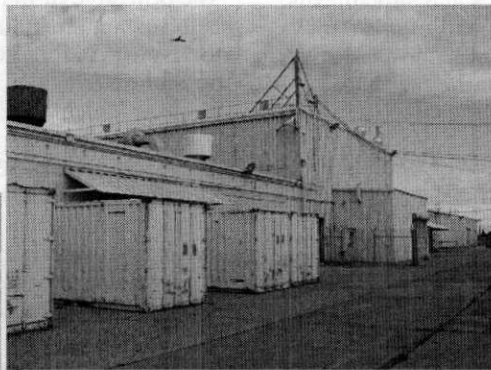
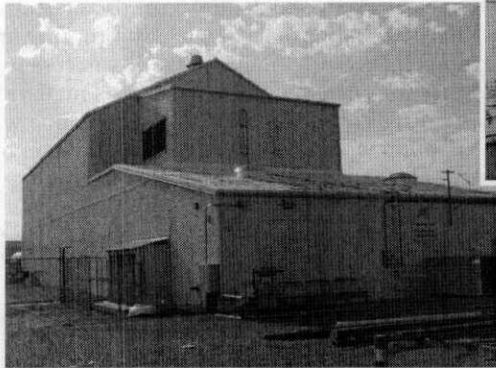
Fact Sheet

Cleaning up 300 Area Facilities

U.S. Department of Energy - Washington State Department of Ecology - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



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The U.S. Department of Energy, Washington State Department of Ecology, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Tri-Party Agreement agencies) would like your input on the *Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis #1 for the 300 Area*, DOE/RL-2001-30. The engineering evaluation/cost analysis (EE/CA) evaluates alternatives for final disposition of 82 of the 220 buildings and structures located in the Hanford Site 300 Area. Future EE/CAs will support demolition of the remaining facilities by September 30, 2015.

Background

Construction began in 1943 of a fuel fabrication and laboratory complex at the Hanford Site in southeastern Washington state. Called the 300 Area, the fuel fabrication and laboratory complex is located along the banks of the Columbia River, about one mile north of the city of Richland. Uranium was shipped from offsite to 300 Area where it was fabricated to make nuclear fuel used in the Hanford plutonium production reactors. The laboratory

facilities supported research and development of fuel manufacturing processes, waste disposal methods and the biological effects of radiation. Chemical process laboratories, test reactors, and numerous ancillary structures were constructed to support activities in the 300 Area.

Over the next 30 years, additional facilities were built as Hanford work was diversified to include research and development in energy, waste management, biological sciences, and environmental sciences. Coinciding with the end of the Cold War, research and development work in the 300 Area shifted from fuel manufacturing to cleanup of contamination from past operations.

This EE/CA evaluates final disposition of 82 buildings and structures north of Apple St. in the 300 Area. Subsequent EE/CAs will be developed to support demolition of the remaining 138 facilities in the 300 Area by Sept. 30, 2015.

Public Comment

The Tri-Party agencies want your feedback
on the 300 Area Facilities EE/CA.

The public comment period is:
Oct 25 - Dec 1, 2004

Fact Sheet

What is an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis?

An Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) evaluates feasible and cost-effective alternatives for proposed removal actions, and recommends a specific removal action under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

A Removal Action is a discrete, short-term action taken to protect public health, welfare, or the environment from an actual or potential release of hazardous substances. The removal action proposed for the 300 Area buildings and structures is not time-critical. The EE/CA outlines the goals of this removal action, identifies and evaluates three removal action alternatives, and recommends a selected alternative for the facilities.

What cleanup actions were evaluated?

The removal action for the 300 Area buildings and structures must protect human health and the environment, and meet the removal action objectives identified in the evaluation. Based on the criteria, the following alternatives were evaluated:

No action

Under the no action alternative, Hanford Site access controls would be maintained to help prevent worker or public entry to the contaminated facilities. No other specific controls would be established for the facilities.

Decontamination and decommissioning

The objective of the decontamination and decommissioning (D&D) alternative is to demolish the buildings and structures. The action includes deactivating the facilities by removing

physical, chemical, and radiological barriers to demolition. Deactivation would be followed by decontamination, decommissioning, and demolition of the buildings and structures, removal of contaminated building materials, and disposal of the materials at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility or other facilities in accordance with disposal site waste acceptance criteria. The D&D alternative would initiate the process of demolishing the 82 buildings and structures in the north end of the 300 Area in the near future. Work will be completed no later than Sept. 30, 2015.

Long-term surveillance and maintenance

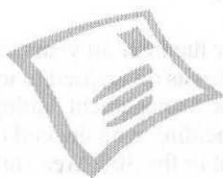
The objective of long-term surveillance and maintenance (S&M) is to sustain the buildings and structures in a safe condition for up to 11 years before initiating the demolition process. To the extent possible, S&M would be performed to minimize the potential for an environmental release and to protect workers while maintaining compliance with applicable state and federal regulations and DOE orders. During the S&M phase, existing institutional controls would be maintained to warn area workers of potential hazards and restrict public access to the 300 Area. Major repairs, such as reroofing and shoring structural components, would be performed as necessary to ensure facility integrity for containment of hazardous materials. After 11 years, the activities described in the D&D alternative will be initiated. The S&M option would also require renegotiation of the Tri-Party Agreement cleanup commitments for 300 Area.

What is the preferred alternative?

The Tri-Party Agencies have selected D&D as the preferred alternative for the 300 Area buildings and structures. The estimated cost for the recommended alternative is \$113 million. The D&D alternative involves removing all hazards that would present a substantial threat to human health and the environment if they were released. It also involves preparing the site for additional soil remediation efforts identified in the CERCLA Record of Decision for the 300-FF-2 Operable Unit.

How you can become involved

The 30-day public comment period for the 300 Area Facilities EE/CA is Oct. 25-Dec. 1, 2004. The Tri-Party agencies would like your feedback on this document and will consider all comments before finalizing it. **To request a copy of the document, or to submit comments in a written or electronic format, please contact:**



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To request the Tri-Party agencies to arrange a public meeting on the 300 Area Facilities EE/CA, please contact Rudy Guercia, above, on or before November 4, 2004.